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**THE CONFERENCE BULLETIN
OF THE
NATIONAL CONFERENCE
OF SOCIAL WORK**

82 North High Street, Columbus, Ohio

President: Frank J. Bruno, St. Louis.
Treasurer, Charles C. Stillman, Columbus.
General Secretary and Editor of the Bulletin,
Howard R. Knight, Columbus, Ohio

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**A STATEMENT FROM THE
TREASURER**

Your Treasurer and the General Secretary have been straining every effort to balance the Conference budget at the close of the fiscal year, December 31st. It is possible for this to be done but only if the membership of the Conference stands by. On November 1st more than 1100 members of the Conference had delayed in the payment of their membership fees from one to six months. This is a total of approximately \$5500 of membership income. Every cent of this is needed this year if the Conference, despite rigid economy in its administration, is to balance its budget. Every member therefore who has not sent in his dues, although they are due, or whose membership fee comes due during November or December is strongly urged to make himself a committee of one to see that his own membership fee is sent in promptly. If we all pull together in this way, the Conference can come through this year with a balanced budget and start the new year with a clean slate.

QUARTERLY DATING OF MEMBERSHIP FEES. A NEW POLICY

At its recent meeting the Executive Committee of the Conference unanimously voted to adopt the following resolution:

"A. All membership fees now due during the first three months of the calendar year be redated and due as of January 1st, that all membership fees due during the second three months of the calendar year be redated and due on April 1st, that all membership fees due during the third three months of the calendar year be redated and due as of July 1st and that all membership fees due during the last three months of the year be redated and due on October 1st.

B. Beginning with January 1st, 1933, all new memberships received be dated as of the next preceding billing date, or anniversary date, namely, January 1st, April 1st, July 1st and October 1st.

It should be distinctly understood that if this recommendation is adopted, no present member of the Conference will lose any issues of the Quarterly Bulletin, copies of the Proceedings or other privileges to which he is entitled under the existing system."

Heretofore all new memberships in the Conference were dated on the first of the month in which they were received. This date then became the anniversary date of the membership fee, which resulted in having twelve billing dates through the year and made necessary a somewhat complicated system of membership records. Under the new policy all present memberships will be redated for four quarterly anniversary dates, January 1st, April 1st, July 1st and October 1st. All new memberships received will be dated according to this new plan so that unless otherwise specified

any new memberships received during the first quarter of the year will be dated January 1st, during the second quarter of the year, April 1st, and so on.

A number of factors were seriously considered before this action was taken. The new fiscal year under which we are now operating runs from January 1st to December 31st. By this method of dating and billing for membership fees a somewhat larger proportion of the membership income of any given fiscal period will be in and available during that fiscal period instead of carrying over into the next year. Frequently members of the Conference do not find it convenient to pay membership fees promptly but experience shows that most of them are paid within ninety days after being billed. This should result in more of the real income of a given fiscal period being available for the expenditure of that fiscal period than has heretofore been the case.

The Mail Vote

A year ago the Conference adopted a system of voting by mail. Under the Constitution only such members as were members in good standing at the preceding annual meeting and are members in good standing (membership fees paid) at the time of the election of the current year are eligible to vote. In order to allow ample opportunity for memberships which have heretofore been due on April 1st, May 1st and June 1st to be paid so as to establish the eligibility of the member to vote it would have been necessary under any circumstances to send the reminders for these three months out about April 1st with the official ballot. In as much as more than seventy per cent of our members have their anniversary dates during the second quarter of the year what would have been substantially a quarterly billing would be necessary if the provisions of the mail vote plan are to be carried out in a way to allow members ample time to cast their ballots. This is especially important for members who for one reason or another are unable to attend the annual meeting in any given year.

Economy In Administration

Like all other organizations the National Conference is practicing rigid economy in administrative affairs. The reduction of the number of billing dates from twelve to four and the simplification in the records made possible by quarterly billing will result in economy in the office.

It is important to remember that no member of the Conference will lose any of the privileges of membership. Proceedings, copies of the Bulletin or other benefits for which the payment of the membership fee has entitled him regardless of when it was paid. The new plan will not affect this year's budget in any way but we do believe will result in economy and convenience next year.

THE CONFERENCE BULLETIN

For a number of years it has been customary to print the membership list of the Conference as a part of the November issue of the Conference Bulletin. Due to a new editorial policy approved by the Executive Committee last June it will be customary hereafter to print the membership list in the January issue of the Bulletin so that the list will be correct as of December 31st, the close of our fiscal year, each year. Whether or not it will be possible to print the list next January will depend upon the financial situation and will be subject to the action of the Executive Committee at its meeting the first of January when the budget for 1933 will be given consideration.

Under the new policy for the Bulletin there will continue to be four issues each year as follows: The January issue devoted to the affairs of the Conference as an organization, including the financial report, the Treasurer's statement, the budget for the ensuing year and any other matters having to do with the Conference. It will ordinarily include the membership list.

The April issue, due April 1st, will carry the preliminary program for the forthcoming annual meeting. Heretofore two preliminary programs have been published. After the experience of a number of years, we feel that but one is necessary, providing it is issued approximately six weeks prior to the holding of the Conference. The one preliminary program will be as complete as it is possible to make it at the date of issue.

The July issue, due July 1st, will carry the summary of the annual meeting. Heretofore this issue has not come out until August. It is hoped by getting it out by July 1st to get the report of the annual meeting to the members who are unable to be present at a much earlier date.

The October issue, due October 1st, is used this year for a report of the International Conference of Social Work. It will be used for different purposes during coming years but with the expectation of carrying material of interest to the membership of the Conference.

ON TO DETROIT

Our Detroit friends are getting ready to make the annual meeting next June a memorable one. Local committee chairmen have been appointed and are organizing their committees.

The Masonic Temple will be Conference Headquarters. Located within fifteen minutes walk from the hotel district, it is magnificently equipped for the purposes of the National Conference. Practically all meetings including luncheons and dinners, not only of the Conference itself but of the Associate and Special Groups, will be held under one roof. Ample elevator service, lounge rooms, restaurant and lunch room facilities are available to serve the convenience of delegates. Without exception the Detroit Masonic Temple offers the best facilities for the National Conference that it has enjoyed for many years.

Hotel Headquarters for the National Conference will be the Hotel Statler. Various Associate Groups will have headquarters at nearby hotels. A complete list will be published in the next Bulletin.

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

Miss Ruth E. Taylor, Deputy Commissioner of Public Welfare of Westchester County, New York, has been appointed Chairman of the Nominating Committee for the current year by the President of the Conference and has accepted this responsibility. The Committee on Nominations will be glad to receive suggestions from any member of the Conference for officers or members of the Executive Committee to be nominated at Detroit. Suggestions should be sent directly to the Chairman of the Nominating Committee at the Department of Public Welfare, White Plains, New York. A blank for this purpose will be published in one of the forthcoming issues of the Bulletin.

HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?

If you have changed your address or do so during the year, please send us the information. Each year members of the Conference do not receive their Bulletins and Proceedings because they move and do not notify us. Won't you help us keep our addresses correct?

PHILADELPHIA PROCEEDINGS

The Proceedings of the Philadelphia meeting are now on the press and will be ready for distribution in December. Copies are sent without charge to all members of the Conference whose membership is \$5.00 or more. If your membership has lapsed or is overdue, send your check today and your copy will be sent you directly from the press. Probably no recent volume has contained more material of value to the social worker than the current one. Don't miss it.

A RARE OPPORTUNITY

A limited supply of mimeographed copies of the addresses given at the German American Institute held at Frankfurt, Germany, last July, in connection with the International Conference of Social Work is available at \$1.50 for the set of six.

The articles are as follows:

The Political Situation in Germany — Frau Adele Schreiber, Member of the Reichstag.

The German Constitution — Dr. Walter Friedlander, Alderman, President of the Deutsche Zentrale für freie Jugendwohlfahrt.

Federal and State Legislation in Germany Since the War on Public and Private Social Welfare Work — Mr. Pick, Mayor of Stettin.

Social Insurance in Germany, — Professor Frieda Wunderlich, Ph.D.

Modern Tendencies in the German Educational System — Dr. Ludwig Müller, Oberstudiendirektor at Wuppertal-Barmen.

The Present Situation of Professional Social Workers in Germany — Mrs. Adele Beerensson, Head Manager of the German Association of Social Workers.

Orders may be sent with a check for \$1.50 to the National Conference of Social Work, 82 North High Street, Columbus, Ohio.

The Second International Conference of Social Work Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany July, 1932

Social Workers of the United States should read critically the proceedings of the Second International Conference of Social Work, which will, it is hoped, shortly be received by the membership. Groups should be formed to analyze the addresses, and it may well be, to take action on conclusions reached at Frankfurt. Such study should lead to correspondence between members of the different national committees. It should open the way to informal conferences when members have opportunity through travel to come into personal contact with fellow social workers of other lands.

Those of us who have had the good fortune to attend both the Paris Conference of 1928 and the Frankfurt Conference realize the long strides taken in four years not only in an understanding of each other's points of view, but in the desire to see our inter-related social situations from a common standpoint.

To me, at least, in Frankfurt came the realization that the social workers of the United States are, in relation to our foreign co-workers, as students to maturer practitioners. We have entered on a tortuous road which has been long traveled by those who have learned to recognize some of the pitfalls.

From a Swede came the comparison of the present crisis to a magnifying glass, which reveals the effects of schemes of social intervention with a clarity denied to periods of experimentation when money is relatively abundant and results are assumed rather than ascertained to be beneficial. From the same source came the appeal to recognize that criticisms either in favor or against theories of relief or insurance are of no avail. The need of the time is to base action on sound psychology and on economic factors found to be involved in forms of social intervention. A Czech speaking in another commission meeting, expressed conviction that social work loses its basic characteristics through reliance on schematic measures. He, as well as the Swede, made an appeal for study of reactions to different types of relief.

The Commissions emphasized the importance of close collaboration between public and private agencies, of each making use of the other's experience. As a German put the case: it is to the private agency that society

must turn if social work is to conserve the character of a pioneer alert to take the initiative in blazing new trails.

Repeatedly in the commission meetings respect for personality was voiced. A German made the statement that mass measures cannot maintain welfare's rightful characteristic of personal approach. A Belgian asserted that social workers should comprehend the forms assumed by human dignity in man's fight for existence. A Frenchwoman said that each family acquires a personality. Since "what the family is, society is," whatsoever lessens the integrity of the individual family is a blow directed against society.

Belief in the value of family life led a German to ask social workers to treasure the cultural and spiritual worth of inherited attitudes and modes of behavior; a Frenchwoman, to call for an appreciation of mystical influences. Dr. Polligkeit in the summary, which came at the conclusion of the Conference, said that cultural and spiritual values can be preserved even though material satisfactions are forfeited.

The position taken by modern literature in regard to the disintegration of the family and the alleged disadvantage of home life is flatly contradicted by four recent sociological inquiries made in Germany, a German stated. These studies showed that relations between young people and their parents are based on strong home ties and on a marked family spirit.

Regard for the subjects of social work made the Czech, quoted above, ask that "we define our aims clearly in order that our motives, as well as our actions, may be understood by the people affected." A Hungarian urged that representatives of the working class be selected as partners in the formulation as well as the carrying out of social plans.

Concern for the individual and for his right to security in and through family life was ardently expressed in the presentation and discussion of problems growing out of illegitimacy. Family ties should be guaranteed to the illegitimate child, a Swiss member maintained. At this weakest point, as a German phrased it, family life should find protection. Public opinion in regard to the child born illegitimate has changed, an English woman asserted.

The sessions were given a special character, placed as they were against the background of Goethe's Frankfurt. One felt the influence at the meetings of the stirring, beautiful presentation of Goetz von Berlichingen, which was given in the Römer Platz, the historic center of Frankfurt's life as a free city, the scene of the election of the German emperors. The air seemed charged with "those lofty ideals of right and wrong", with an "enthusiasm for freedom" with which Goethe endowed the hero of his drama.

The final note of the International Conference was given through the perfect rendering of Bach's great hymn, "Gott Lebet Noch."

Mary Wilcox Glenn

OPENING ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT, MARY VAN KLEECK

Zusammenarbeit, la co-operation, muss das erste Wort sein.

The task of President, which is to me a privilege deeply appreciated, yet a heavy responsibility, seems to me to be to assist the Chairman of the Permanent Committee and the Chairmen of Commissions by seeking to focus the thought of the whole Conference upon the fundamental common principles in which we shall find a basis of co-operation and a source of inspiration in our work this week. Therefore it is in no perfunctory spirit but as a vital center of all our interest that on behalf of the Permanent Committee and its Executive Board the President greets the representatives of National Committees and the representatives of Governments whose collaboration in the guidance of these deliberations is essential to the fruitful results so earnestly desired.

It is the purpose of this plenary session to be a working body, not a formal occasion. It should give to individuals some preparation for the work of the Commissions; and for the Conference as a whole we hope that it will produce what the Quakers would call "the sense of the meeting." To that end each person must share in this meeting. You may read the written word, but the spoken word to which your thoughts respond can alone produce a common thought which transcends the thought of any one of us.

The Conference does not begin today, nor will it end on Thursday. Extraordinary has been the work of National Committees in preparation for our discussions. The results will be clear to you in the meetings of the Commissions, and I need not describe them. Let me rather remind you of the history of the Conference.

In 1923, distinguished social workers from Europe came to the United States on invitation of the National Conference of Social Work to celebrate its fiftieth anniversary. Several of those visitors are present at this Conference. Among them came Dr. Rene Sand, whose truly international spirit had revealed to him the needs and the contributions of many different lands to the tasks of social service. In the purposes and plan of organization of the National Conference of Social Work in the United States he saw the possibility of a similar plan to bring together the social workers of many countries for international conference.

The American Conference is a very simple organization of members who come as individuals and not as representatives of other organizations, or states, of races, nor of creeds. From the groups to which they belong they necessarily draw experience and philosophy from which to contribute to the total meeting of minds in the National Conference, but they are not spokesmen for their various groups, nor does the plan of organization in individual memberships contemplate the possibility of domination by any group which happens to be more strongly represented. This possibility is lessened also by the fact that the Conference as a whole takes no action nor does it seek to agree through resolutions which would necessarily give expression to the views of the majority groups. It is kept as a Conference in the true sense of the word, from which the individual members draw their own conclusions and make their own applications in their daily work. Though it is not claimed that our National Conference of Social Work actually fulfils the potentialities which Dr. Sand saw in it, nevertheless the plan of its organization is actually the source of Dr. Sand's conception of this International Conference and it was in the United States that he proposed such an international plan to give opportunity for exchange of experience and ideas by the social workers of the world.

Five years later, after preliminary discussion by a group called together

in Paris in 1927, we came in 1928 for the first International Conference of Social Work in Paris—symbol of the great gifts of France and the Latin nations to the civilization of the world. From France had come those vital ideals of social import, which inspired the movement for social justice in the nineteenth century.

At the close of the Paris Conference the decision was reached to hold another Conference, and the Permanent Committee was charged with responsibility for organizing it. It was in Czecho-Slovakia in 1928 that the Committee made the plans for the present Conference. We met as guests of our President, Dr. Alice Masarykova, in that land of an old civilization, which under the leadership of its great statesman, President Masaryk, has adopted as a national program the aims and methods of social work inspired by social justice. It is a symbol of the growth of new ideals in an ancient culture.

And now we meet in Germany, a land where in years of seemingly unendurable stress and strain a great program of social work with its twofold branches of social care and social legislation has been carried forward in an intense effort to make tolerable in some degree the lives of its people. The basic fact is that here is a nation which has been called upon to lower the standards of living of a whole people. In the midst of these dangers and difficulties Germany has been able to receive this International Conference, planned and organized by one of its social workers who already carries a heavy responsibility for the social program of his country, Dr. Wilhelm Polligkeit. This is a demonstration of courage and capacity which will hearten us all as we return to meet unprecedented difficulties in our several lands.

Happily in years to come we shall have similar opportunities for contact with other lands; possibly in England for the next Conference and perhaps some time in the Far East, the Near East, the Balkan States, the Northern Countries; and in due course possibly we shall observe conditions in the country of a new economic system, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which gives the first example of a whole nation taking as its explicit purpose the raising of the standard of living of all its people. Whatever may be our attitude toward the philosophy or the method of this new system, understanding of its purposes is vital to the peace of the world.

The Family and Social Work is our subject at this Conference, and in that theme the important word is Family. It is a subject of universal interest, carrying us below the level at which we are divided by the differences in our national institutions and customs. It is of concern to us all because of the immediate necessity to prevent if possible the suffering of individuals and families; but the subject has, also, another far-reaching significance. The family is the symbol of the group and typifies the relation of the individual to the community. The working out of this relationship in the economic and social order is the central problem of our generation.

Technological development has created in the world economic interdependence, but we have not yet learned the social co-operation which must harmonize with this technological interrelationship. Society must evolve through a growing capacity for co-operation which is attainable only through the more perfect functioning of the individual within the group. The family in this sense becomes the possible cell of a new social order.

Changes in the economic system are in process, which take on the character of a great historical movement. The individual would seem to have little power of control over such an historical development. But necessarily new social institutions evolve through the actions of individuals, and it is for us to understand as far as possible the changes which surround us, to the end that we may take our part in a conscious evolutionary process. In that responsibility for understanding the evolutionary tendency social workers have a special contribution to make, which grows out of their contacts with the realities of life. In the work of relieving suffering we may not neglect its significance as revealing defects in the economic system. We may not carry on our work in any spirit of maintaining the old after it ceases to serve humanity. While conserving the values in the old, we must not accept as lasting those methods in industry which are merely the accidental accompaniments of economic development. We must be ready to face without fear the building of a new social order, and it may very well be that the family as symbol of the group which gives opportunity and protection to the individual may be the essence of the new social order.

THE GERMAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE

No one of the more than fifty Americans who participated in the German-American Institute held for two days prior to the opening of the International Conference of Social Work in Frankfurt last July will forget the masterly address with which Frau Adele Schreiber, a member of the German Reichstag, opened the Institute by plunging immediately into the heart of contemporary German life with her subject "The Political Situation in Germany". A woman with much experience yet young in her point of view, keen intellectually, with a delicious sense of humor, she summed up what is going on politically in Germany today against the background of recent political history in a way that no one present will ever forget. Following her address came four others. Dr. Walter Friedlander's analysis of "The German Constitution" was followed by Mr. Pick's summary of "Federal and State Legislation in Germany since the War on Public and Private Social Welfare Work". Professor Frieda Wunderlich described "Social Insurance in Germany" in her effective manner and Dr. Ludwig Müller, already familiar with the American educational system gave the final address on "Modern Tendencies in the German Educational System."

Following each address there was a period of discussion led by Dr. Ruth Weiland, who had done such a fine piece of work in arranging this Institute for the American delegates, assisted by the speakers and a number of other German social workers. Questions were raised which led to the discussion of comparative systems both in Germany and the United States. Each day at noon the entire Institute met for luncheon, giving an opportunity for mutual acquaintanceships. Each afternoon was devoted to small group discussions under the leadership of Dr. Weiland, Dr. Hertha Kraus and a number of other German social workers, which gave opportunity in small groups for learning the more intimate details of German social work methods.

The Institute was a new venture in international friendship and understanding. It is fair to say that it accomplished both purposes. In addition it gave a fine setting to those

fortunate enough to take part in it for the Conference that followed during the succeeding four days.

At the close of the Institute the American delegation, in response to a brief address of appreciation by Miss Joanna Colcord of New York, voted unanimously to extend its hearty appreciation to Dr. Weiland and her associates in making possible this opportunity.

The manuscripts of the addresses in English are available in mimeographed form for those who were not privileged to attend the German-American Institute. The complete set of manuscripts together with a sixth one prepared by Frau Adele Beerensson on "The Present Situation of Professional Social Workers in Germany" can be secured through the National Conference office for \$1.50 for the set of six papers. The complete list of titles and authors is as follows:

"The Political Situation in Germany"—Frau Adele Schreiber.

"The German Constitution"—Dr. Walter Friedlander.

"Federal and State Legislation in Germany since the War on Public and Private Social Welfare Work"—Mr. Pick.

"Social Insurance in Germany"—Professor Frieda Wunderlich.

"Modern Tendencies in the German Educational System"—Dr. Ludwig Müller.

"The Present Situation of Professional Social Workers in Germany"—Frau Adele Beerensson.

The proceeds from the sales of these manuscripts will be used to help defray part of the expenses of the German-American Institute which were not met by the fees paid.

COMMISSION 1 — HEALTH PROTECTION AND MEDICAL CARE FOR THE FAMILY

Commission Number One, on Public Health and Medical Care of the Family, met on July 12th and 13th for the purpose of receiving reports and hearing discussions of the following special subjects: (1) Clinics and dispensaries as organs of public health and medical care, (2) The welfare of the mother at the time of her confinement and the welfare of the new-born child.

To this Commission as to others, general questions were submitted as guides to the conclusions which it was desired each Commission should formulate. Among these questions were several calling for a statement of opinion as to the part which public and private agencies should play in protecting and promoting the health, integrity and spiritual development of the family. The Commissions were asked "What should be the minimum program for the protection of the family as the goal of each civilized country and safeguarded by international relations?"

While the Commission on Public Health and Medical Care of the Family was unable to formulate complete detailed answers to all of the questions proposed to it, the discussion of delegates gave evidence of the trend in many countries. In addition, through preparatory work in the months preceding the Conference the delegates of many countries were able to file with the Conference Secretariat documents describing national health and social conditions and organizations for dealing with them. The report of the United States prepared by a Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. William F. Snow of New York includes as appendices illustrative publications from such agencies as the Committee on the Costs of Medical Care, the White House Conference, the National Health Council, etc. These materials will be of practical use to the Secretariat in compiling a report of the Conference and especially in dealing with those points not covered in the discussions of the Commission.

In the opening address one of the rapporteurs, Dr. G. S. Williamson of London, presented the biological view of health and family welfare work and urged that palliative measures be abandoned and that positive aggressive measures based upon biological facts be adopted in the promotion of health work. "Where and when," he asked, "is there a designed effort to cultivate either material or spiritual welfare? All we do is to provide a check to the growth of evil. To checkmate the probability of evil is to play chess with the Devil."

Speaking of the family as the fundamental social unit, he said, "The family must not be 'taken for granted'. Biology must search out the facts and seek their significance. Is the family merely a social tradition or is it a biological necessity?"

"The first obvious fact is the relation of the family to 'sex'. The sexes are not variants of the organism as might be imagined from a perusal of the literature on the subject. The organism in the evolutionary scale emerges from the a-sexual state, passes through the hermaphrodite and varieties thereof to the bi-sexual state. In the a-sexual and hermaphroditic we have obvious the complete organism—capable of completing within itself both excursions of the pendulum of metabolism. In the bi-sexual these two phases of metabolism are incapable of their full excursions within the one individual. They separate, each occupying a part of the organism: not for any metaphysical . . . reason but of dynamic necessity. The Human Organism therefore is not the Individual: it is the Mated Sexes.

"That is the first biological concept offered as a guide to the Social Student seeking to cultivate the Future instead of reaping the Past. It must have immense repercussions on Policy."

Dr. Tandler of Vienna, in discussing Theme I, Clinics and dispensaries as organs of public health and medical care, advanced the view that, "The progress from individual therapy to a general care of health can only be achieved by systematic observation and advisory and welfare treatment of the persons within a given community. Neither the individual's feeling of being sick nor his determination to visit a physician or a hospital can be sufficient for the functioning of a general health control; rather does the modern health control require an extensive influencing of the individual will and its subordination under those protective laws which are to safeguard the health of individual and community. In fulfillment of these demands there should be given occasion, in addition to the individual therapy i. e. to the physician in all his various functions and capacities, to take hold of people and to restore and preserve their health by timely measures."

Dr. Rott of Berlin, introducing Theme II, The Welfare of the Mother at the Time of Her Confinement and the Welfare of the New-born Babe, pointed out "The infant's chance of survival depends to a very great extent on the health of the mother, her degree of knowledge and her mental outlook. The presence of the mother is all-important for the well-being of the child.

"The efforts undertaken on behalf

of the child are closely linked with social conditions. The social character of the family is determined in the main by the social and economic status of the father. Any family deprived of its natural head is exposed to the greatest perils.

"During the first years of life, more than at any other phase of his existence, the health of the individual is closely bound up with the well-being of the family. The campaign against infantile mortality should aim at providing the family with what is lacking and protecting the mother."

Dr. Rott then suggested a plan for the protection of the health of newborn infants and their mothers.

Speakers from many countries reported the activities of their respective governments and voluntary agencies, pointing out their successes and their hopes and their problems. Child health and the control of tuberculosis and syphilis, as familial diseases, the part of the private medical practitioner, medical-social workers, the public health nurse, and various other subjects were discussed by many speakers. Improvement and extension of various health insurance schemes so as to provide more adequately for maternal care and child welfare were suggested.

A speaker representing the United States presented the American point of view. He mentioned the divergence of opinion in the United States in regard to the various health insurance schemes which have been proposed, pointed out the important part played in the United States by private industrial health insurance organizations and stated that "In the United States we struggle toward a scheme in which the precious and traditional relations between the physician and the family may be preserved, i. e., the family doctor." He suggested that in the United States as elsewhere many medical practitioners stand in need of more social training in order that they may understand the social background and significance of disease. The family in general is accepted by social and health workers in the United States as the proper unit for health work and by no one more than the epidemiologist who daily sees the necessity of recognizing the fact that such conditions as tuberculosis and syphilis are familial diseases. But the environment of the individual is not limited to the family and it is as bad to forget that families live in communities as it is to forget that individuals live in families.

The speaker called attention to the fact the very existence of social and health organizations built up during many years of unremitting effort are in many countries threatened by the present adverse economic situation. The dramatic appeal for material relief in the form of food and shelter

has forced the less spectacular but equally vital health and social agencies into the background where they are in grave danger of being starved out of existence. One of the most urgent recommendations of this conference should be to call attention to the fact that "Man doth not live by bread alone" and that health and social care are as vital to the well-being of men, women and children, as are food and clothing.

The closing session of the conference was devoted to the presentation of a summary by the rapporteur of each of the six commissions. The salient features of the report of Commission Number One are as follows:

"The report of the national delegates and the contributions of many speakers have provided a review of the work of the past and some suggestions for the future. The first striking fact is that the family is now accepted as a convenient social institution enabling the social worker and medical hygienist to get into contact with the individual suffering from certain preventable diseases. Similarly, when institutional treatment is too expensive, the family is used as a convenient center for treatment, preventive or curative. It was, however, clear that the school or the factory were equally as valuable centers for the approach for many purposes.

"The greatest fear was expressed, not that the family might disintegrate, but that the various services designed to prevent and cure disease should be effected along with the family in this crisis. The main plea put forward was that, whatever else had to suffer restriction in the present crisis, the health services should be maintained to the greatest possible degree. Nor is this claim weak for if this industrial society is to survive it can only survive if the health of the worker is maintained. There is, therefore, every possible reason to extend and expand these services if we measure their results in terms of death statistics. *** The claim is that it would clearly be folly to seek to save at the expense of health as this would inevitably raise the death rate. How with the same available expenditure can increased results be obtained? There, also in its transactions, the commission clearly pointed the way. Various methods of co-ordination were outlined. More still can be done if due attention is paid to the education of the medical practitioners and social workers.

"Internal coordination of existing services and the recognition of very special functions of preventive hygiene in social service would give society greater value for labor and money expended in dealing with diseases of the environment and diseases of the individual.

"So much for the technical reports. From the general discussion it became

clear, that the general state of society itself had repercussions upon the health of the individual. The weakest point in the protective armor was education. Until the general education of the individual, particularly its cultural and moral aspects, produced individuals capable of appreciating special instructions in matters of sex and marital relations, dietetics, mother care, child care, psychology, etc., our efforts would be largely unproductive. The general ignorance has prevented the proper appreciation of these special efforts.

"The appeal here then, was for a greater cooperation between the health services and the other social services operating upon the public. It was expressly pointed out that this was not to be achieved through a further multiplication of organizations, but through centered cooperation of the departments concerned.

"Finally, past success in public health work justifies more intense application of these general principles if progress is to be maintained and the effect of the present crisis mitigated.

"In conclusion we may turn from the family as a convenient unit for social organization and look at it as the fundamental biological force.

"The family, not only by tradition, but in accord with recent scientific discovery is the essential biological unit through which and by which the evolution of the human race is to proceed to the full expansion of its potential. Science has, through material invention, through advances in hygiene and its application as a social service already demonstrated beyond equivocation that mere subsistence need be no matter of anxiety for the individual. * * * It is no longer nature or natural forces, but man's own stupidity that threatens man's survival."

Walter H. Clarke, M. D.

COMMISSION 2 — SOCIAL WORK AND THE FAMILY: SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, MORAL, AND SPIRITUAL FACTORS IN FAMILY SOCIAL WORK

Commission 2, starting from the general theme of Social Work and the Family: Social, Economic, Moral and Spiritual Factors in Family Social Work, attempted three diversified approaches: (1) Opportunities and Limits of Social Work in Maintaining the Social Level of the Family; (2) Methods of Family Social Work; and (3) Adolescents and Their Place in the Family. It is probably superfluous to say that it would have required at least a month of conferring to reach even an approximate understanding of the content of these various titles in terms of the different nationalities represented. Probably even within our own United States group we would have found a need for considerable

discussion before reconciling points of view on what was meant. The language difficulties probably accentuated fundamental differences of opinion but did not actually create these difficulties.

A paper presented by Miss Norah Hill on "The Joint Family System in India" added emphasis to the repeated assertion that the family as a group must be reckoned with in all of our at present known cultures but that we shall do well if we accept the family unit as we find it and build upon its strengths rather than attempting any uniformity of family pattern. Along with this point of view there emerged an occasional tendency to think of the family as a convenient unit for the efforts of social workers or of other groups interested in specific educational objectives. Such an attitude, it would seem, might easily lead to an unconscious exploitation of a fundamental human relationship.

In the formally presented papers, as well as in the discussion which followed them, there appeared to be real differences of opinion on vital aspects both of family life and the role of the social worker. It is possible, however, that some of these differences were due to limitations of time and language and might at least have been harmonized, had there been opportunity for a real discussion. We find, for instance, considerable emphasis on the value of women's working outside the home, followed by the diametrically opposite opinion that the work of woman as wife and mother is indispensable, a fact not true of other work she might undertake outside the home. An even more realistic statement intimated that women who work outside the home need this as an outlet, that their families benefit by their wider interest and that, whether we like it or not, the families need the income the mother earns. Similarly, there was a definite emphasis from various sources on the detrimental effects of the depression on family life, with one marked contrast from one country that the crisis has little influence on the moral life of a family.

There was a further and perhaps a culturally important difference as between what we might call the disciplinary attitude and the releasing attitude. For instance, the suggestion that the adolescents in a family should be governed with a strict hand, should have their earnings controlled by the family group, seems inconsistent with the philosophy that release and development of individual capacity is the objective of social work.

Evidence from all countries represented indicated less attention to the needs of fathers than to those of mothers, so far as preparation for marriage was concerned. One country only mentioned a welfare center for fathers.

From the countries where social insurance has been an accepted matter for many years there was an evident feeling that such social insurances had been active factors in stabilizing family life and that more might be done through legislation, possibly in the direction of family allowances, and so on. However, there was a recognition of real dangers in category help and in the fact that legislation tends to ignore the individual as an individual.

It was heartening to have from widely separated countries renewed emphasis on the participation of the client. This was no theoretical participation but an active assumption of responsibility by the person being helped. The clients themselves have worked shoulder to shoulder in social work activities with the trained social workers. There has been a directed effort in the interpretation of the aims and methods of social work to the clients themselves and to their neighborhood groups. Such an interpretation evaluates the influence of the atmosphere and the neighborhood on family life as a part of its social environment.

In Commission 2 as in the plenary sessions and in individual conferences with social workers from other countries, there was the recurrent note that both public and private social work is needed if the family is to have its fullest opportunity for development.

The head of the school of social work in Belgium urged that the group should think of social case work not just in relation to the present emergency, and stressed in emphatic terms the need of a long-time view. Social case work, she said, needs to be considered imaginatively and its possibilities experimented with by other groups than those who have had actual professional training, as it is only through such wider development that we can be assured that the values of personality will not be ignored.

The closing words to the group were given by Dr. Cabot. He pointed out that there is no element in our social life which does not affect the family and is in turn affected by the quality of family life. The family social worker preeminently must keep in mind the needs of the whole man within the family group—needs which are physiological, economic, metaphysical, and religious. The art of social case work is in its ability to offer a definite stimulus to self education. Its objective must be not just to prevent deterioration, but positively to foster development and growth of personality. Social work, without in any way duplicating the work of the teacher, is essentially an educational process for the individual and family—education in misfortune, against misfortune, and after misfortune.

Margaret E. Rich.

COMMISSION 3 — THE INCOMPLETE AND THE BROKEN FAMILY AS A SOCIOLOGICAL, EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL WORK PROBLEM

The Commission on Broken Homes, whose sessions were presided over by Senator Simonetta of Rome, held three division meetings, with an average attendance of about 100. The first session was given over to ten-minute reports from chairmen of national commissions. During the second period, fuller reports on different phases of the subject were given by reporters from the national delegations. Particularly stimulating to thought was the report of Frau Vajkai of Hungary, vice-president of the International Child Welfare Federation, who translated her own report into English and French for the benefit of those who could not follow the German original. She made a strong plea against overpreoccupation with the material evidences of child neglect, and urged the equal, or sometimes even the worse effects of intangible offenses against the child's personality in hindering wholesome development.

In the third session, reports from some of the countries having the most modern legislative standards for the protection of the illegitimate child precipitated sharp differences of opinion between those who would remove all legal and social barriers against the illegitimate mother and her child, and the delegates representing certain religious organizations, who maintained that the status of the legal family was of primary importance, and would be undermined by these proposals. The official report of the sessions, by Dr. Storck of Berlin, states on this point:

"The Commission is of the opinion that the provision of an effective system of protection for family life. . . must also be extended to cover the family relations that exist in the incomplete family, especially the fatherless family."

There was vigorous objection from several angles to the complete identification of the status of the illegitimate with that of the legitimate child, although the entire Commission agreed that the children of incomplete families ought not to suffer from popular disesteem or from a system of laws prejudicial to child welfare.

The Commission therefore reached the conclusion that . . . public opinion should be influenced so that children from incomplete families should not be despised and looked down upon, nor unmarried mothers be hampered in the duty of bringing up their children by experiencing disadvantages and hardship.

The Commission held it to be necessary further, that in all countries, responsibility for dependent children should be undertaken by the community, and that this sense of responsibility should be expressed in the organization of governmental functions. The Commission is firmly of the opinion that in many countries the legal rights and status of the family need to be raised; when measures for child welfare are made dependent upon whether or not the parents are considered to have sinned, contradictory and disgraceful results follow for the community.

The Commission recommends that the welfare of the children should alone decide what shall be the accepted relationships between parents and children, and that governmental action against parents should be confined to measures which are unavoidable to protect the welfare of the children.

From these considerations, the Commission agreed to urge that, in order to enhance the rights of childhood, the Conference should set forth in appropriate terms to the governments of all countries, that every illegitimate child has a right to have its paternity legally established.

Similar differences arose over the question of the dissemination of birth control information. Again to quote Dr. Storck's report:

"Out of the regard for conscientious differences and tensions that arise in the consideration of birth control measures, the Commission passed rather quickly over the especial importance of adult education, and in particular of the training of young people, as a means toward strengthening the feeling of responsibility in the field of sex relations. The results already attained have convinced the Commission that effective family care is possible only if the family knows hygiene. Substantial assistance to this end can be given through a consulting service to families which has a program and goal not limited to the biological, but which is primarily concerned with the ethical aspects of family relationship, and which seeks as a main objective to further the strengthening of the moral power of the family."

The Commission agreed that social and political measures should be taken to raise the standard of living and prevent the disorganization of family life due simply to lack of income and the methods of modern industry. It urged the establishment of international agreements concerning the support of children abandoned by emigrating fathers; and an international inquiry into the usefulness of family courts as an instrument for child protection. It called upon the Conference as a whole to reaffirm the Geneva Declaration of the Rights of Childhood, of May 17, 1923.

Joanna C. Colcord

COMMISSION 4—THE ECONOMIC PROTECTION OF THE FAMILY, THROUGH SOCIAL INSURANCE, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE RELIEF, AND WAGES POLICY

This section of the Conference had for its presiding officers Professor Bagge of Stockholm and Dr. Grieser, Under-secretary of Labor for Germany. Professor Bagge in the opening address suggested that the present crisis, like a magnifying glass, helped us to discern problems of social policy, and could serve to direct attention to problems arising under normal circumstances, or those decisive from the standpoint of the future. He called attention to changes of opinion as to what are equitable and desirable minimum standards of living, involving at times a complete change of public attitude toward relief. He spoke of the post-war increase in public expenditures for social purposes, so remarkable as to constitute in some countries an invisible social revolution. He noted the relationship of these movements to the universal suffrage. He suggested that the manner of development of social policy had led to a state of indescribable confusion that called for social planning and coordination of social services.

There was no question, he said, of choice between public relief and social insurance, for both were necessary. However, division and delimitation of services were absolutely necessary. Nor were maintenance of public relief services with the aid of ordinary taxation and compulsory contributions to social insurance funds so different from the economic and psychological points of view, as commonly alleged. They did not merely represent two different forms of taxation. Both relief and social insurance required investigation and verification, and the method did not distinguish the two forms of aid. Most of the recent criticisms had been unavailing because, while arising from inadequacy of method, they were levelled at the fundamental principle. Professor Bagge concluded with a statement of the necessity for complete reorganization and reform of present social policy.

Four reports followed on "The Family and Social Insurance" by Dr. Grieser, "The Family Wage" by our Dr. John Ryan of Washington, D. C., "The Family and Public Relief" by Sir Allan Powell of London, and "The Family and Private Relief" by Dr. Alice Salomon of Berlin.

Reports from the separate countries gave all too briefly their problems and experiences in the vast range of problems covered by the Commission and a summary statement contained many of their conclusions along lines already offered by Professor Bagge.

The Conference gave a sense of similarity of effort in spite of difference of detail, terminology and rate of progress.

Mollie Ray Carroll

COMMISSION 5—SOCIAL WORK FOR ALIEN FAMILIES AND UNATTACHED CHILDREN

The Fifth Commission of the International Conference of Social Work at Frankfurt in July dealt with Social Work for Alien Families and Children. In the absence of Miss Jane Addams, International Chairman, Mr. George L. Warren, of the American Committee, presided. The presentation of the social problems of the alien family was made from the European point of view by Mlle. Suzanne Ferriere of the International Migration Service of Geneva, and from the American point of view by Mr. Warren. Two special themes were presented: "International Agreements for the Protection of Alien or 'Heimatlos' Families" by Dr. Fritz Rager of the Chamber of Labor of Vienna, and "The Protection in the International Traffic of Emigrants Leaving or Returning to Their Home Country" by Dr. Josef Krakes, of Prague.

Mlle. Ferriere's paper was based on documentation received from Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden, and Switzerland, which countries were represented in the some 60 members of the Conference who attended the meetings of Commission 5 regularly. After the presentation of the formal papers, all of these countries, including America, presented ten-minute reports.

In the final report to the concluding session of the Conference, the Fifth Commission stated that its discussions had identified the following problems: (1) the tendency of immigration legislation in many countries to consider the alien as an individual without regard to his family relationships; (2), the failure of Governments and of public and private agencies to recognize the international character of the problems of the alien, and a natural tendency of many agencies to treat these problems from a national point of view; (3) the development in many countries under economic pressure of inhospitable attitudes toward the alien and the resulting restrictions in work opportunities; and (4) the lack of flexibility in the administration of the law and of national institutions such as courts in the treatment of the peculiar social and international circumstances of the alien. The discussions also brought out the threats to family unity presented by the increasingly restrictive immigration laws of many countries and by the increasing de-

portations, repatriations and expulsions. The inadequacy of social care and assistance based upon antiquated qualifications of settlement, residence and citizenship was also stressed.

Dr. Eric Einar Ekstrand, Head of Social Section of the League of Nations, was present at all of the meetings and took an active part in the discussions. Dr. Ekstrand reported that the League of Nations, in September, 1931, had nominated a Committee of 12 Governments, which will meet immediately after the adjournment of the Disarmament Conference to consider the ensemble of the problem of "Assistance to Aliens."

In view of the opportunity presented for the development of constructive measures on the part of Governments through the medium of this Special Committee, Commission 5 recommended the collection in the various countries for the use of the Special Committee of documentation and information bearing on: (1) the discrimination in the laws and in existing treaties affecting the alien's opportunity for a livelihood; (2) the degree to which practice under the law departs from theory in the treatment of aliens; (3) the manner in which national habits and customs affect the alien in his endeavors to attain a satisfying life; (4) the prospects for arrangements for the reciprocal care of indigent aliens by Governments through the medium of conventions; and (5) the collection of statistics of alien dependents and the cost of their care compared with similar statistics on all dependents. It was the hope of Commission 5 that the compilation of such statistics would expose possibilities for bilateral or regional conventions providing for the reciprocal care by countries of alien dependents.

The Fifth Commission made a special plea that social agencies in all countries concern themselves with the preservation of family unity in families whose members, of necessity, are resident in different countries, and that in relief measures for alien families, the educational needs of the family in addition to the minimum requirements of mere sustenance be met.

The Fifth Commission also made a plea for wider collaboration between the public and private agencies of the different countries in the treatment of social problems of individual alien families and stated that a fundamental requirement to this collaboration was the attainment on the part of individual social workers of an attitude of mind free from national prejudice and of a generosity of spirit capable

of accepting the considerations on common problems advanced by their fellow workers in other countries.

The Fifth Commission, because of the very nature of the subject matter of its discussions, was unusually sensitive to the international character of social problems and to the necessity for the growth of a conception of fellowship on the part of both public and private agencies approaching the same fundamental problems in the different countries. While many diverse opinions were expressed, there existed within the Commission a sense of common concern in the effort to extend to alien families the same safeguards of social care that the individual countries have seen fit to provide for their nationals. In short, it was agreed in Commission 5 that emigrants and immigrants, aliens and 'heimatlos' are human beings, members of families, and entitled, irrespective of the complexities created by boundaries and frontiers, to fair opportunities to live wholesome and satisfying lives.

George L. Warren

COMMISSION 6—THE SIGNIFICANCE TO THE FAMILY OF CULTURAL EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF YOUNG PEOPLE AND OF ADULT EDUCATION

Unhappily, Section 6 never quite succeeded in defining its sphere and scope. It should be noted that this section was added at a rather late period in conference planning and this fact, perhaps, accounts for the vagueness concerning its precise area of interest. From the German point of view the section was intended to deal with the relationship between the Youth Movement and other welfare movements on behalf of youth to adult education on behalf of the family. From the French point of view the section was intended to deal more directly with all education of youth seen in the light of the family. The American delegation agreed at a pre-conference gathering that the general theme would be most accurately described for our purposes if we stated it in these terms: 'Education of Youth for Family Life.' Our contributions to the discussions were, consequently, directed toward the programs of young people's organizations, the general and unconventional education of youth, pre-parental, and parental education.

From a cultural standpoint this section was dominated by the delegations from Germany, Czechoslovakia, Poland, the Scandinavian countries, and the United States. With the exception of the United States, these nations constitute an approximate cultural unity (although the present relationship between Poland and Germany as political states might tend to make such a statement superficially untrue) and it was this more or less unified attitude which predominated in the formal addresses and discussions. Its basic point of departure may be stated thus: The family is a God-given, spiritual institution which must be maintained at all costs; its real foundations are religious and consequently any modern movement which tends to weaken religious institutions constitutes an attack upon the family; the four principal impacts which have tended to weaken the family are (a) Nineteenth Century materialism, (b) the War, (c) Youth movements which promote freedom, detachment from the home, and self-dependence, and (d) contemporary political movements affecting youth which tend to separate them from their elders ideologically. Considerable of the discussion revolved about these and allied themes.

The contribution of American delegates represented a different point of view and proceeded from analyses starting from different backgrounds. In briefest possible form it may be said that American participants emphasized the following: (a) the role of the family in a period of social reconstruction, (b) secondary schools in the United States as representative of a youth movement which is characteristically American and for which there seems to be no European counterpart, (c) the necessity of regarding family life and parenthood as tasks requiring training, (d) American movements in the fields of pre-parental education in high schools and

colleges, (e) the American parent education movement, and (f) the psychosociological nature of family relationships.

It will be seen from the above contrasts in point of departure that the European and American delegates conceived their subject and its treatment in divergent ways. Since one of the chief values of a conference lies in its capacity to reveal differences, it may be pointed out that the major distinction between these two groups represents on the one hand American **empiricism** and on the other European subjective **idealism**. The Americans, having recognized a problem in the area of youth and family life, wished to march on to tentative programs of action. The Europeans, having recognized a similar problem, desired to analyze the situation from a value point of view and then restate the problem in terms of moral imperatives. (It is not fair, obviously, to group all Europeans and all Americans together in this approximate fashion; there were some American delegates who sympathized with the European point of view, and there were at least two Europeans who strove valiantly for a more experimental and objective consideration of the problem.)

This section might have participated in a really significant discussion if these two points of view could have been clearly stated at the outset; then it would have been possible to see how they supplement and compliment each other—how the two viewpoints are necessary in a complete approach to the situation as a whole. This step was not possible at the Frankfurt conference and consequently the final report of the Section will, when published, reveal unresolved conflicts and incomplete propositions. One should not, I presume, feel disappointment over such unfinished results in international conferencing: the conference

did lead to clearer and deeper understandings and it is my conviction that it laid the groundwork for much finer accomplishments in the future.

Eduard C. Lindeman

CLOSING REMARKS BY MARY

VAN KLEECK

May I say a final word to interpret the Conference, though it can be merely a personal view?

The spirit of the Conference demonstrates that the social workers of the world are ready to work to the utmost limit of their strength and capacity to relieve as far as possible the destitution in their several nations. But we would be untrue to our own experience and to our social obligations if we did not sound the warning that the efforts of public and private relief, even when supported by systems of social legislation and insurance, are clearly inadequate in this situation of widespread and long continued unemployment and insufficient earnings. It is of first importance that social work and social policy should not be weakened but strengthened at this moment. But also we must give the warning that it is not enough to preserve the national program of social work; and that all national policies and all international arrangements must be motivated by the explicit purpose of achieving security of livelihood in harmony with the world's capacity to produce. Neither war nor economic exploitation can be permitted longer to jeopardize the welfare of humanity.

No nation can live to itself alone, but each must bear responsibility for the effect of its policies upon the standards of living of other lands. The Family, which is the theme of the Conference, can have its complete fulfillment only in a new spirit of world unity.

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